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This review would be incomplete if it failed to mention that Dr. Weyl's book has already had a wide and strong influence on recent political movements and opinion. It seems certain that in the days before us this influence will be multiplied. It should be a source of gratification to members of the American Economic Association that one of their number has been able to escape the aridity and formalism of the schools and by a rare combination of insight and research so present the fruits of scholarship that the wayfaring man may read.

GEORGE RAY WICKER.

Dartmouth College.

Economic Beginnings of the Far West. How We Won the Land Beyond the Mississippi. Vol. I. *Explorers and Colonizers.* Vol II. *American Settlers.* By KATHARINE COMAN. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912. Pp. xix, 418; ix, 450; illustrated. \$4.00.)

They who cannot understand how a book can possibly be interesting and at the same time scholarly will suspect the scholarship of this book until they examine it critically. It is narrative in style and does not eliminate the dramatic features of the long struggle which was eventually to bring the vast territory beyond the Mississippi under the dominion of the United States, and the greater part of it under the influence and control of that type of American civilization which is commonly called "The North." Volume I, which is devoted to the subject of explorers and colonizers, bears on the outside cover, as the symbol of the period which it describes, a picture of the beaver trap, while volume II, devoted to the subject of American settlers, bears as its equally significant symbol, a miner's rocker of 1848. The narrative covers the most dramatic episodes in American history, such as the early Spanish explorers of the Southwest; the mission fathers and their settlements; the Santa Fé trade over the old trail of picturesque memory; the Russian settlements of the Northwest; the fur trade and the vast explorations carried on in the quest of the beaver; the explorers of the great West—English, French, Spanish and American; the struggle for Oregon; the Mormon migration; the conquest of Texas, New Mexico and California; and, finally, the struggle between rival types of American civilization for the possession of Kansas.

It is easy to be carried away by the story, and if one were to

venture a criticism, it would be that the author has not adequately safeguarded the reader against this temptation. Unless he takes care he may not see back of the narrative the real economic significance of the great movement, or maze of movements, which culminated in American domination; or he may not see, as the result of his reading, "the underlying economic conditions that determined the outcome of war and treaty and race competition, . . . the bread and butter struggle that must ever result in the survival of the fittest—the ablest to utilize the resources of a virgin territory." As the narrative proceeds it becomes increasingly clear that it was the American settler whose superior adaptability and productivity won the country, even before war or diplomacy registered the result already achieved. "The self-employed and self-supporting farmer took possession of the land in a sense not to be disputed." Everywhere the story is essentially the same, whether it be in Texas, Oregon, or California. Even in Kansas, it was the economic superiority of this type of settler which made that state a land of "free soil and free men."

One may perhaps be permitted to read the same economic lesson into the earlier period of American history. Was it not the habit of the English colonists in America of settling down on farms, planting themselves on the land, as it were, rearing their families, and plying the productive arts, which predestined North America, from the earliest settlements, to become predominantly Anglo Saxon? Against such settlers, ever seeking homes where they could take root and breed more of their own kind, and developing a practical ingenuity unprecedented in the history of the world, the more romantic and adventurous but less productive French of the North, and the more warlike and domineering Spaniards of the South, were doomed to struggle in vain. This vital principle was as completely embodied, perhaps, in the Mormon settlement as anywhere in American history, unless it be among the Pennsylvania Germans. The author's account of the Mormon migration is one of the most illuminating parts of the whole story. It is, besides, an eminently fair and candid description, and gives an economic student a new respect for the Mormon people in spite of some absurd religious doctrines and reprehensible practices. To one who did not understand the all-conquering virtue of this principle, the migration of these apparently misguided people across a thousand miles of plain, mountain, and desert, and their attempt to wrest a living from a region so

unpromising as the Salt Lake basin, must have seemed like wholesale suicide. The fact that thousands upon thousands of them did migrate with their women and children and aged, that they literally made the desert to bloom and blossom, and that in an incredibly short space of time they built up a worthy civilization on no foundation except the American settlers' and English artisans' virtues at their best, must stand forever as an object lesson in economics.

Writers of less insight, with a meager interest in truth but a mighty desire for the picturesque, have been prone to magnify the more romantic and exciting callings of the explorer, the hunter, the trapper, and even the cowboy. Each of these has, in turn, played his part. But the American has not been superior to the Spaniard of Mexico as explorer or cowboy, nor to the Frenchman of Canada as explorer, hunter, or trapper. If the fate of the continent had depended upon the Americans who have entered these worthy callings, the Southwest would probably still be under Mexican dominion, and the Northwest would undoubtedly belong to Canada. It was the willingness of the American settler to follow in the wake of the explorer, the hunter, and the trapper, utilizing the geographical knowledge which they had spread, and the planting of himself on the soil in large numbers, which effectively held these territories. In this kind of occupation the American settler has been without a rival. His productivity, his family-building propensities, his ability to work effectively with his fellows, have created American soil wherever the soles of his feet have pressed.

T. N. CARVER.

The Latter Day Saints. A Study of the Mormons in the Light of Economic Conditions. By RUTH KAUFFMAN and REGINALD WRIGHT KAUFFMAN. (London: Williams and Norgate. 1912. Pp. viii, 362. 10s. 6d.)

The purpose of this book is "to give to British readers an account, written by citizens of the United States, of the Mormons, their faith, their marriage system, their history, their political influence, and their economics." This program is faithfully carried out, but Mr. Kauffman, a socialist and the author of the *House of Bondage*, approaches his problem with a special animus. The history is not always accurate, and the discussions of polygamy and the Book of Mormon are far from just. The